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20 February 1961

BRIEFING PAPER

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

(Formerly Photographic Intelligence Center)

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On January 18, 1961, the President approved NSCIB No. 8 establishing the National Photographic Interpretation Center. Since that time, intensive planning has been undertaken to establish the organizational structure and mission and functions of this new activity, but these plans have not been completed as yet. The organization and mission and functions listed below were formulated over two years ago for the Photographic Intelligence Center and do not reflect future plans.

I. ORGANIZATION

DIRECTOR
Deputy Director

Admin
Staff

Security
Staff

Requirements
Staff

Data Management
Division

Photographic
Analysis
Division

Publications
Division

Technical
Intelligence
Services
Division

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The Photographic Intelligence Center produces photographic interpretation reports and provides photographic intelligence services in support of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Intelligence Community,

[redacted] The Center consists of a high-capability photographic intelligence installation with provision therein for the coordination and joint production of select high-priority photographic intelligence. Basic functions include:

25X1

A. The programming, direction, and production of photographic interpretation, and photogrammetric research and analysis in support of scientific, economic, geographic, current intelligence, operational and production requirements of the CIA [redacted]

25X1

B. Development and exploitation of new techniques, instruments, materials, and devices for photographic analysis, reproduction, and data handling, including the application of electronic automation systems to the extraction of data from photographic and related materials.

C. The coordination and maintenance of liaison within the [redacted] on priority photo intelligence projects and the development and utilization of improved techniques and instrumentation in photogrammetry and photo interpretation.

25X1

D. Technical advice relating to the development of new photographic systems for intelligence collection and utilization under a wide range of conditions.

E. The organization and execution of special photo intelligence training, briefing, indoctrination, and orientation programming within CIA, the armed services, government agencies, [redacted]
[redacted]

25X1
25X1

F. Assistance in the evaluation of other intelligence sources through comparison with photographic data.

G. Assistance in the preparation of estimates of foreign capabilities in the field of photographic intelligence.

H. Conducting liaison with government and private organizations on photographic and related activities.

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III. Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 1960

For the past several years PIC increasingly has performed the functions of a National Photographic Interpretation Center. In recognition of the growing need for a formally established National Photographic Interpretation Center, to most efficiently provide coordinated intelligence at the Washington level, to avoid duplication and to effect fiscal economies, the NPIC was established by NSCID No. 8, 18 January 1961, and PIC became NPIC.

In FY 1960 intelligence production and support activities continued at their previous high rate. Intelligence reporting requirements levied on the Center by CIA components, the military, other U.S. intelligence agencies [redacted] resulted in the establishment of 511 new work projects (compared to 512 in FY 1959). The number of formal reports issued was 210 (compared to 123 in FY 1959). In addition, many requirements were answered by memorandum. At the end of FY 1960 the backlog of projects was of the same order as at the end of FY 1959. The following significant activities in FY 1960 are noted:

25X1

A. Important contributions to high National Priority Intelligence Objectives relating to the USSR, European Satellites, and Communist China, and to current developments in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. This included intelligence on scientific developments in the USSR and China and, in all areas, on military activities, economic developments and geographic information of prime concern to the U.S. Preliminary work was accomplished on Cuba, anticipating the deteriorating political developments of FY 61.

B. The conducting of more than 100 substantive and technical briefings at high levels of the government and in the intelligence community.

C. Continued development of joint reporting procedures within the intelligence community and coordination of requirements and work effort. This is reflected in an increase of more than 100% in the number of joint requirements and joint task forces for exploitation over the previous year.

D. Maintenance of basic services in support of the national photo intelligence effort, including the streamlining of procedures for supplying collateral support to

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photo analysts, the reproduction, security control, and dissemination of documents. Photo laboratory reproduction totaled 174,606 items, up 19%; reproduction of printed material totaled 1,411,657 items, up 26%.

E. Acceleration of the Research and Development Program in Photo Intelligence Exploitation designed to provide the instrumentation, chemical processes, and techniques to exploit to the fullest the advanced collection systems which are in existence now and being developed. Particular attention has been given to advanced concepts in automation, projection viewing, precision measurement and technological developments in amplitude and frequency modulation of light.

F. Provision of technical and administrative support for a joint military service-CIA procurement program for equipment resulting from the Research and Development program. This joint procurement program which has been in operation since 1958 has made possible volume purchasing, with consequent significant dollar savings to the U.S. Government.

IV. Statistical Data

The following data concerning PIC Projects generally reflect work progress and accomplishment during FY 1960:

A. Projects Undertaken by PIC during FY 1960:	
Projects on Hand, beginning of period:	252
Projects initiated during period:	511
Projects Completed during period:	519
Projects on Hand, end of period:	244
B. Reports Issued by PIC in FY 1960:	
Formal:	210
Inter-office Memo:	226

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